

THE AUSTRIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT (GASB)

The Austrian Social Movement (GASB) was founded in Vienna in September or October 1952, and immediately thereafter applied for admission into the European Social Movement, an international non-Fascist organization. Its headquarters is located at Vienna V., Sommerhofgasse 6/6, and the purpose of the organization is given as follows:

1. To join as a member group those socialist and European nations belonging to the European Social Movement.
2. To bring about an above-party politics unification of those Austrians willing to subordinate their personal interests and political opinions to the general welfare of Austria and Europe.
3. To influence the political, economic and cultural life of Austria, according to principles of above-party lines and based on economic necessity.
4. To protect the interests of all its members, as well as of all Austrians belonging to political parties.
5. To initiate extensive depoliticalization of public administration and to carry out reforms in the legislation and administration of the Austrian Republic.
6. To propagate the European Community while maintaining the political and cultural independence of the individual European member states.

The above aims are to be reached by means of lectures and meetings, as well as propaganda in the form of posters, newspapers, periodicals and handbills, books and other publications.

The first chairman of the GASB was the former Sudeten-German Deputy, noted as an agitator of the Volksdeutsche, Hans WACHNER, born 3 March 1893 in Leobnitz, Czechoslovakia; Austrian citizen residing at Vienna VII, Helenengasse 10. Its secretary [redacted] Karl SCHRODT, a publisher.

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WAGNER engaged in active propaganda for the Austrian National Republican Party among the 100-odd partyless, but somewhat nationalistically inclined members of the OeNB.

Shortly before the parliamentary elections of February 1953 WAGNER withdrew from the Austrian National Republican Party to become a candidate (unsuccessful) for the VDU.

On 10 February 1953 a new Board of Directors of the OeNB was elected, comprising the following functionaries.

Chairman: Hans LORENZ, private employee, born 14 June 1896. Austrian citizen, resides at Vienna XII, Rosenhngelstrasse 10. Former member of the NSDAP, and local group leader. He is currently chairman of the "Austrian National Republicans".

Vice Chairman: Franz SIMS, bookkeeper, born 6 May 1914. Resides at Vienna V., Schwarzhofgasse 12. Former member of the NSDAP.

Secretary General: Wilhelm LANDIG, born 20 December 1909. Resides at Vienna IV., Favoritenstrasse 56/2. Engraver. Former NSDAP member. He joined the Sicherheitsdienst Leitabschnitt Wien in 1940, and was later assigned to the staff of the Reichsfuhrer SS. From 1943 to 1944 he served with the German Army in Yugoslavia. After the war he spent two years in Walfsburg as a prisoner of war of the British. In 1947 he opened up a graphic arts shop in Vienna. At the present time he is a member of the Extended Study Commission, also known as the Executive Committee, of the European Social Movement. LANDIG is allegedly a sympathizer of the leftist opposition.

Financial backing for the OeNB was reported to be provided by an Austrian Banker.

In June 1953 the OeNB issued a monthly publication Der Aufbruch, editor of which is Josef KAHNITSCH, member of the executive committee of the "National Republicans". No further issue of this publication has appeared.

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The above mentioned periodical defines the CeSB as a national group of the European Social Movement which intends to set up a press service of the European Social Movement in Vienna, through which all connected organizations will receive the "European Correspondence". According to the publication, the CeSB has formed a working union with the Austrian National Republicans, in the effort to realize a national following.

Several articles in this first issue of Der Aufbruch indicate a strong German-National bias on the part of the CeSB.

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[REDACTED] the fact that the leader of the CeSB, Hans LICHNER, is also chairman of the Austrian National Republicans, leads to the conclusion that an attempt is being made to unite the "Nationalists" under the cover of "Europe-Ideology".

It may be stated generally that the CeSB is of no importance in Austria, and that the Austrian National Republican Party does not have a following worth mentioning.

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